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Government Publications

THE CANADIAN INDIAN

INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

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A Reference Paper

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH
OTTAWA, CANADA
1961

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THE CANADIAN INDIAN

At the time of the first settlements in North America about four centuries ago, the Indian population of what is now Canada was, according to the best estimates of anthropologists, about 200,000. Shortly after the advent of the Europeans, the Indian population started to decline, and continued to dwindle until it became a common belief that the Indians were a dying race. In the last half century, however, there has been a steady increase and today the Indian population of Canada is over 185,000.

There are nearly six hundred separate Indian communities, known as "bands". With the exception of certain nomadic groups inhabiting the outlying and northern regions, these bands are located on more than 2,200 "reserves", varying in size from a few acres to more than five hundred square miles, set aside by the Canadian Government for the use and benefit of Indians. A number of Indians in all parts of Canada have chosen to live off their reserves as members of the general community.

Among the Indians are to be found successful farmers, ranchers, lumbermen, fishermen and trappers, while others are pursuing careers as doctors, dentists, lawyers, teachers, nurses, clergymen, soldiers, industrial workers, stenographers, mechanics, salesmen and tradesmen. The Canadian Indian has proven himself quick to learn and is well able to assume a place beside his fellow Canadians of non-Indian status.

Although the origin of the Indians remains uncertain, anthropologists believe that they came to America in successive migrations in prehistoric times from Northern Asia, probably by way of Bering Sea.

The Indians are not a single race, but are divided into a number of basic language groups that are, in turn, subdivided into tribal groups with many local dialects. There are ten linguistic groups, of which four are found east of the Rocky Mountains - Algonkian, Athapaskan, Iroquoian and Siouan, and six in British Columbia - Kootenayan, Salishan, Wakashan, Tsimshian, Haida and Tlinkit.

These groups are further subdivided into many tribes with widely differing physical and cultural characteristics. The Indians of Algonkian stock are the most numerous, covering an area from the Altantic Ocean to the Rockies; they include such well-known tribes as the Micmacs of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the Montagnais of Quebec and the Ojibway, Crees and Blackfoot of Ontario and the Prairie Provinces.

Iroquoian stock, including the Hurons, is found mainly in Ontario and Quebec, Athapaskan stock inhabits the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, while tribes of Sioux inhabit parts of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The Indian population of Canada is widely scattered, with differing racial and cultural backgrounds, and in varying stages of economic and social development, from the primitive nomadic hunter to the highly skilled industrial worker or member of the learned professions. Like every other community in Canada, the Indian band or group is subject to the economic, social and geographical influences of the region in which it lives. For general purposes the Indian population may be grouped according to the natural economic zones of the country:

(1) Atlantic Seaboard - On the Atlantic seaboard, aboriginally, the various tribes lived by hunting and had no agriculture. Today, however, they are mainly engaged in forestry, agriculture, fishing, and native handicrafts, and face much the same problems as other Canadians making their homes in the same region.

(2) St. Lawrence Basin, South of the Laurentian Plateau - At the time of European settlement the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes regions that became Old Ontario and Old Quebec were inhabited, as now, by two main groups of Indians: Iroquoians, including Hurons, and the Algonkians, including Ojibways, Algonkins, and Abenakis. The economy and culture of these two main groups differed widely. The Iroquoians were agriculturalists, being the only aboriginal race in Canada which had developed agriculture to any great extent before the coming of the European, while the Algonkians depended mainly on the chase for their livelihood. Today, those in the settled areas are engaged mainly in farming and industrial and professional pursuits, while those in the more remote areas rely mostly on forestry, fishing, hunting, and trapping for a living.

(3) The Prairies - In the Prairie Provinces the Indians, who depended upon the buffalo for practically all their needs, had to adapt themselves to new conditions following the near extinction of this animal. An intensive policy of agricultural assistance has been necessary. Many Indians are now successful ranchers and grain growers, a remarkable transition in a few generations, in view of the fact that they had no previous agricultural experience.

(4) Pacific Region - The Indians inhabiting the coastal areas of this region were traditionally sailors and fishermen and today they are active in the commercial fishing industry.

In the Interior, fruit growing and ranching are important, while many Indians earn their livelihood in lumbering. In the northern area trapping is the principal occupation.

(5) Precambrian Shield - Originally, the Indians in this vast area were entirely dependent upon hunting and fishing for their food alternating between periods of plenty in good game years and periods of privation and starvation when game was scarce. On the whole, they still depend to a large extent upon the chase for their livelihood. But this region has witnessed a remarkable change in recent years with the advent of the airplane. The pulp-wood industry in the more accessible regions of this area, provides employment for many Indians, while mining and other projects are changing employment patterns.

ADMINISTRATION

As early as 1670, during the reign of Charles II, instructions were given to the governors of the colonies to the effect that Indians who desired to place themselves under British protection should be well received and protected. Later it was found necessary to establish an office devoted solely to the administration of Indian Affairs, and in 1755 Sir William Johnson was appointed Indian Superintendent with headquarters in the Mohawk Valley in what is now the State of New York. The establishment of this office was the genesis of future Indian administrative organization in North America. Following the American Revolution, the Indian office was removed to Canada. From that time on, a continuing administrative organization has been maintained for the protection and advancement of the Indian interests.

Until 1860, the Imperial Government was responsible for the management and expense of Indian Affairs, but in that year it was decided that the Province of Canada should assume the charge. Accordingly the management of Indian Affairs was brought under the control of the Crown Lands Department on July 1st, 1860, the Commissioner of Crown Lands being from that date Chief Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

By a special provision in the British North America Act of 1867, the administration of Indian Affairs, which had been under the management of several provinces, came under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada. Indian Affairs was made the responsibility of the Department of the Secretary of State at the time of Confederation, and in 1873, it became

a branch of the Department of the Interior. In 1880, a separate Department of Indian Affairs was established, which continued until 1936, when Indian Affairs again became a Branch, this time of the Department of Mines and Resources. Since January 1950, Indian Affairs has been the responsibility of a branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

The primary function of the Indian Affairs Branch is to administer the affairs of the Indians of Canada in a manner that will enable them to become increasingly self-supporting and independent members of the community. Among the important functions of Canadian Indian administration are: the management of Indian reserves and surrendered land; the administration of band funds; education; welfare projects; relief; family allowances; rehabilitation of Indian veterans on reserves; descent of property; Indian treaty obligations; enfranchisement of Indians; and a variety of other matters. Administration is carried on through a headquarters staff at Ottawa and Indian agencies in the field, each agency being responsible for one or more reserves and bands. In addition to the Superintendent the staff of an agency may include a clerk, stenographer, and assistants according to its special requirements. Medical staff is provided, as required, by the Department of National Health and Welfare. The work of the agencies is supervised by eight regional supervisors and in British Columbia by a commissioner.

INDIAN TREATIES

Early in the settlement of North America, the British recognized an Indian title or interest in the soil to be parted with or extinguished by agreement with the Indians and then only to the Crown. This gave rise to the practice of making agreements or treaties, as they were afterwards called, with various Indian tribes. The policy began in British colonial times in what is now the United States and was afterwards introduced by the British into Canada.

The Royal Proclamation of 1763 provided that no Indian could be dispossessed of his lands without his consent and the consent of the Crown. In accordance with this principle, treaties have been made from time to time with various Indian tribes during the opening up of the country for settlement. In general, the terms were that, in recognition of the surrendering of Indian interest in the soil, the Crown undertook to set aside reserves and provide other benefits such as cash payments, annuities, educational facilities and other considerations. About half the Indian population of Canada are under formal treaties. The needs of Indians not under treaty, however, receive no less attention from the Government on that account.

The following is a summary of the main provisions of Canadian Indian Treaties. It may be noted that these Treaties do not include the Iroquois of Brantford and Tyendinaga or certain other groups who immigrated to Canada from what is now the United States and were given reserve lands in Canada. The distinction is that the Treaties were made with the original Indian inhabitants, Ojibways and Mississaugas, whose aboriginal interest in the soil in Upper Canada had to be extinguished.

Province of Canada Treaties

Robinson Superior Treaty - September 7th, 1850 - between the Province of Canada and the Ojibway Indians, northern shore and hinterland of Lake Superior.

Area ceded, 16,700 square miles.

AND

Robinson Huron Treaty - September 9th, 1850 - between the Province of Canada and the Ojibway Indians, northern shore and hinterland of Lake Huron.

Area ceded, 35,700 square miles.

Indians promised - Not to sell, lease or dispose of minerals or other reserve products without consent of the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs and not to hinder exploration or prospecting.

Government Obligations - Reserves as set forth in treaty schedules (no per capita or family land grant); right to hunt and fish except on lands occupied by individuals or companies with consent of Province (no restriction as to regulations).

Total cash payment at Treaty £4000; perpetual annuity of £1100 (now $4.00 per capita).

Manitoulin Island Treaty - October 6th, 1862 - between the Province of Canada and the Ottawa, Ojibway and other Indians.

Area ceded - all portions of the Great Manitoulin Island except those to be set apart as reserve lands for the use of Indians.

Government Obligations - 100 acres per family, or 50 acres for each single person over the age of 21, or single orphan under the age of 21; total cash payment at treaty $700.00; annual interest payment from proceeds of land sales; same fishing rights as those enjoyed by white settlers.

Post-Confederation Treaties

Treaty No. 1 - August 3rd, 1871 - Chippewa (Ojibway), Swampy Cree and others, southern Manitoba centering Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg districts.

Area ceded 16,700 square miles.

Indians promised - to observe Treaty; maintain peace; not to molest persons or property. (Same promise in subsequent Treaties with additional undertaking to assist in bringing Indian offenders to justice).

Government Obligations - Reserves, 160 acres per family of five plus additional 25 sq. mi.; control of liquor traffic; maintenance of school on each reserve; commissioners to take census.

Annuity - Originally $3.00, raised to $5.00 in 1875; chiefs $25.00, headmen $15.00; triennial suit of clothes to each chief and headman.

Treaty No. 2 - August 21, 1871 - Chippewa and others. Central Manitoba, south-eastern Saskatchewan and south-western Manitoba.

Area ceded 35,700 square miles.

Government Obligations - Reserves, 160 acres per family of five; school on each reserve; control of liquor traffic; commissioners to take census.

Annuity - $3.00 per head raised to $5.00 in 1875; chiefs $25.00, headmen $15.00; triennial suit of clothes to each chief and headman (added in 1875).

Treaty No. 3 - October 3, 1873 - Saulteaux tribe of the Ojibway and other Indians. Extreme southwest of Ontario lying west of the Great Lakes and small portion of southeastern Manitoba.

Area ceded, 55,000 square miles.

Government Obligations - Reserves up to one square mile per family of five, subject to Government's right to deal with settlers on reserve lands, right to sell or lease reserve lands with consent of Indians and to appropriate reserve lands for Federal public purposes, subject to compensation for improvements; schools; control of liquor traffic; hunting and fishing in ceded area subject to Dominion regulations.

Treaty Presents - $12.00 per head; various items for agricultural equipment, supplies, etc. flags and medals.

Annuities - $5.00 per head; chiefs $25.00, headmen $15.00; $1,500.00 annually for ammunition; triennial suit of clothes to each chief and headman.

Treaty No. 4 - September 15, 1874 - Cree, Saulteaux and others. Mainly southern Saskatchewan.

Area ceded, 74,600 square miles.

Government Obligations - Reserves one square mile for family of five - subject to Government's right to deal with settlers on reserve lands; right to sell or lease reserve lands with consent of Indians and to appropriate reserve lands for Federal public purposes subject to compensation for improvements and lands; schools; right to hunt, trap and fish in tract surrendered subject to Government regulations; control of liquor traffic.

Treaty Presents - Indians $12.00, chiefs $25.00, headmen $15.00; miscellaneous agricultural equipment, supplies, etc.; flags and medals.

Annuities - Indians $5.00, chiefs $25.00, headmen $15.00; $750 annually for ball and twine; triennial suit of clothes for chiefs and headmen.

Treaty No. 5 - September 24, 1875 - Saulteaux and Swampy Cree tribes and others. Northern Manitoba and part of extreme western Ontario, north of Treaty No. 3.

Area ceded 100,000 square miles.

Government Obligations - Reserves 160 acres per family of five (100 acres per family of five at Fisher River) - subject to Government's right to deal with settlers on reserve lands; right to sell or lease reserve lands with consent of Indians and to appropriate reserve lands for Federal public purposes subject to compensation for improvements;

Government Obligations (Cont'd)	- right to navigation of all lakes and rivers and free access to the shores thereof; schools; right to hunt and fish in ceded area subject to Government regulations; control of liquor traffic.
Treaty Presents	- Miscellaneous agricultural equipment, supplies, etc.; flags, medals.
Annuities	- $5.00 per head, chiefs $25.00, headmen $15.00; $500.00 annually for ammunition and twine; triennial suit of clothes for chiefs and headmen.
Treaty No. 6	- August 23, 1876 and September 9, 1876 - The Plain and Wood Cree tribes and others. Central Alberta and central Saskatchewan. Area ceded, 121,000 square miles.
Government Obligations	- Reserves 1 square mile to each family of five; subject to Government's right to deal with settlers on reserve lands; right to sell or lease reserve lands with consent of Indians and to appropriate reserve lands for Federal public purposes subject to compensation for improvements; schools; control of liquor traffic; right to hunt and fish in tract surrendered subject to Government regulations.
Treaty Presents	- $12.00 per head; miscellaneous agricultural equipment, supplies, etc.; flags and medals.
Annuities	- $5.00 per head, chiefs $25.00, headmen $15.00; $1,500.00 annually for ammunition and twine; triennial suit of clothes for chiefs and headmen. Assistance in case of pestilence and famine; medicine chest for use of Indians.

Treaty No. 7 - September 22, 1877 - Blackfoot, Blood, Peigan, Sarcee, Stony and others - Southern Alberta.

Area ceded 42,900 square miles.

Government Obligations - Reserves 1 square mile for each family of five; right to hunt subject to Government regulations (nothing re fishing, school teachers).

Treaty Presents - Indians $12.00, chiefs $25.00, headmen $15.00; miscellaneous items and equipment; flags and medals.

Annuities - Chiefs $25.00, headmen $15.00, Indians $5.00; $2,000.00 annually for ammunition; triennial suit of clothes for chiefs and councillors.

Treaty No. 8 - June 21, 1899 - Cree, Beaver, Chipewyan and others. Northern Alberta, the Northwest Territories, south of the Great Slave Lake and northeastern British Columbia.

Area ceded, 324,900 square miles.

Government Obligations - Reserves 1 square mile for each family of five or 160 acres in severalty, subject to Government's right to deal with settlers on reserve lands, right to sell or lease reserve lands with consent of Indians and to appropriate reserve lands for Federal public purposes subject to compensation for improvements and lands; right to hunt, trap and fish subject to Government regulations; school teachers.

Treaty Presents - Indians $12.00, chiefs $32.00, headmen $22.00; miscellaneous agricultural equipment, supplies, etc.; ammunition and twine $1.00 per head for families preferring hunting and trapping to agriculture; medals and flags.

Annuities - Indians $5.00, chiefs $25.00, headmen $15.00; triennial suit of clothes for chiefs and headmen.

Treaty No. 9 - November 6, 1905 - among the Crown Dominion of Canada, the Crown Province of Ontario and Ojibway, Cree and others. That part of Ontario drained into the Hudson Bay. Paid by Ontario.

Area ceded, 90,000 square miles.

Government Obligations - Reserves up to 1 square mile for each family of five, subject to Government's right to deal with settlers on reserve lands, right to sell or lease reserve lands with consent of Indians and to appropriate reserve lands for Federal public purposes subject to compensation for improvements and lands; right to hunt, trap and fish in ceded area subject to Government regulations; schools.

Treaty Presents - $8.00 per head; flags.

Annuities - $4.00 per head.

Treaty No. 10 - July 20, 1906 - Chipewyan, Cree and others - Northern Saskatchewan.

Area ceded, 85,800 square miles.

Government Obligations - Reserves up to 1 square mile for each family of five, subject to Government's right to deal with settlers on reserve lands, right to sell or lease reserve lands with the consent of the Indians and to appropriate reserve lands for federal public purposes subject to compensation for improvements and lands; Indians who do not wish to live on reserves may have 160 acres per head in severalty

Government Obligations (Cont'd)	- off reserves; education; right to hunt, trap and fish.
Treaty Presents	- Indians $12.00, chiefs $32.00, headmen $22.00, medals and flags.
Annuities	- Chiefs $25.00, headmen $15.00, Indians $5.00; distribution of twine and ammunition annually; triennial suit of clothes to chiefs and headmen.
Treaty No. 11	- June 27, 1921 - Slave, Dogrib, Loucheux, Hare and other Indians. The Northwest Territories north of Great Slave Lake. Area ceded, 372,000 square miles.
Government Obligations	- Reserves 1 square mile for each family of five, subject to Government's right to deal with settlers on reserve lands; right to sell or lease reserve lands with consent of Indians and to appropriate reserve lands for Federal public purposes subject to compensation for improvements and lands; right to hunt, trap and fish in ceded area subject to Government regulations; salaries of teachers.
Treaty Presents	- Medals and flags and copy of treaty for each chief, fishing, hunting and trapping equipment to value of $50.00 for each family of band; miscellaneous equipment.
Annuities	- Indians $5.00, chiefs $25.00, headmen $15.00; triennial suit of clothes to chiefs and headmen; annual distribution of twine, ammunition, etc.

Treaty made - between His Majesty the King and the Chippewa Indians of Christian Island, Georgina Island and Rama, October 31, 1923,

AND

Treaty made -between His Majesty the King and the Mississauga Indians of Rice Lake, Mud Lake, Scugog Lake and Alderville, November 15, 1923.

Indians ceded hunting, fishing and trapping rights over an area of 20,100 square miles in southern and central Ontario between Lake Ontario and Georgian Bay.

Government Obligations - $500,000 paid by Ontario.

LEGISLATION

There is only one Indian Act and one Indian administration in Canada. Before Confederation, in addition to the Old Province of Canada, several of the colonies that now form Canada had Indian legislation and some administrative organization for Indian Affairs. After Confederation, Parliament from time to time enacted legislation concerning Indians which was first consolidated in the Indian Act of 1876, which though changed and simplified by various amendments, remained the basic Indian law until 1951, when a new Act came into force. In keeping with Government policy of encouraging the Indians to take an active interest in their own affairs they were given an opportunity to review the proposed legislation and to make representations regarding its provisions. Also a group of representative Indians studied the provisions of the Act with the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration who is responsible for Indian Affairs.

LEGAL STATUS OF INDIANS

Apart from special provisions in the Indian Act, Indians are subject to federal, provincial and municipal laws, in the same manner as other Canadian citizens. Indians may sue and be sued and may enter freely into contractual obligations in ordinary business transactions. Their real and personal property held on a reserve is exempt from taxation, and such property, except on a suit by another Indian, is also exempt from seizure.

Indians may vote at federal elections on the same basis as other citizens. With regard to provincial elections, the Indians are governed by

the electoral laws of the various provinces.

Liquor has presented a special problem. From an early period it was thought necessary to control the liquor traffic with Indians and special legislation was passed by the competent governmental authority in provinces and colonies, even before Confederation, prohibiting the sale to, and use of, intoxicants by Indians in order to protect them from exploitation by unscrupulous traders and individuals who might take advantage of them in economic matters. This was especially true during the early fur-trading period.

Total prohibition of the use of any kind of intoxicant by Indians except for medicinal purposes is the significant feature of the liquor provisions of Indian legislation passed by the Parliament of Canada, which was consolidated in the Indian Act of 1876 and continued with minor changes until 1951.

Provision is now made under the Indian Act for three stages of development. The first is one of total prohibition, as in the past. The second provides for the consumption of alcoholic beverages in public places and is brought into effect on the request of the province concerned and with the concurrence of the Governor in Council. This stage is now in effect in the provinces of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Nova Scotia and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The third stage, permitting Indians to purchase intoxicants in the same manner as other citizens in accordance with the laws of the province may be proclaimed by the Governor in Council at the request of the province concerned. This was proclaimed for the Province of Ontario on November 6, 1958, for the Northwest Territories on November 18, 1959, for Saskatchewan on July 1, 1960, and for Manitoba on July 13, 1960. Provision is also made in the Act for Indians residing in a province where this third stage is in effect to hold a community referendum at the request of the band council concerned. In the event that the majority are in favour the Governor in Council may issue a proclamation permitting the possession of intoxicants on the reserve in question.

SELF-GOVERNMENT

The original political organization of the Indians varied considerably from tribe to tribe. It was usually very simple, involving only the recognition of a chief and headmen or councillors, either hereditary or chosen for their prowess or ability. As early as 1869, provision was made in the Indian Act for self-government on reserves in accordance with democratic principles. This provision has been broadened from time to time to meet the needs of Indian communities.

The Indians now elect band councils consisting of a chief and councillors who correspond to the local elective officers in rural municipalities. However, Indian bands who wish to adhere to their tribal system of choosing chiefs and councillors may continue to do so and exercise the same powers as an elected council. The councils are concerned with local conditions affecting members of the band and work closely with the superintendents. They may make by-laws with regard to various matters of a local nature on the reserves and also exercise control over the expenditure and management of their funds and property. Formerly only males had the right to vote in elections, but under the new Indian Act the right to vote has been extended to include women also. Indian women are taking a keen interest in band affairs and a number have been elected to office.

FINANCES

The Indian Trust Fund is made up of capitalized annuities and moneys derived from Indian assets.

Revenue to the fund began with the settlement of Upper Canada, and the surrender for sale of Indian lands in that province. Today, major items of income to the fund are derived from leases of Indian reserve lands, timber sales, the leasing of oil and gas exploration rights, sale of gravel and sales of surplus portions of reserves which have been surrendered for sale by the interested bands of Indians.

Before 1859, moneys were held for investment in commercial securities, municipal debentures and so on. In that year, the government assumed the investments because investments in securities and debentures involved possible loss to the fund and security was of prime importance.

With very few exceptions, suggestions for expenditures originate with the chiefs and councils of the respective bands. It should be remembered that the Trust Fund is not owned in common by all Indians in Canada, but belongs to various bands. Some bands have as much as a million dollars, others have only a few hundred, while a considerable number of bands have no moneys at all and, therefore, no interest in the Trust Fund. This seeming inequality arises from the fact that some bands chose reserves rich in agricultural land, timber or minerals, and have been able to dispose of their surplus assets, depositing the proceeds in their Trust account. Other bands chose reserves because of their suitability for hunting and fishing and these often lacked other resources from which revenue could be derived.

Expenditures from the moneys of a band held in the Trust Fund are permitted for any purpose considered in the interest of the band or the individual members thereof.

When an Indian becomes enfranchised, that is when he gives up his Indian status and is no longer entitled to the rights and privileges reserved under the Indian Act for Indians only, he is paid a per capita share of the Trust Fund of the band to which he belongs.

EDUCATION

In Canada, education is generally under the jurisdiction of the provinces, but education of Indians is the responsibility of the Federal Government.

The educational program is carried out through the operation of schools for Indian children. A number are also educated in non-Indian schools under provincial or private auspices, the cost of tuition then being assumed by the Federal Government.

In order to provide educational facilities for children who cannot attend school in association with other groups and to meet particular problems, the Government has established four types of schools.

On the majority of reserves, day schools are established to provide an education for children who can attend from their homes.

Residential or boarding schools are operated, under the auspices of various religious denominations, to care for orphaned children, children from broken homes or those who, because of isolation or the migratory way of life of their families, are unable to attend day schools.

Neither of these schools adequately serve the migratory population, particularly in the far North. In order to meet the unusual problems presented by these groups, seasonal schools have been established at places where migratory families gather during the year.

A fourth type is designed to meet the needs of children confined to hospitals. Teachers are employed to give instruction to children in the hospitals operated under the jurisdiction of the Directorate of Indian and Northern Health Services of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Arrangements are also made for the education of Indians in other hospitals and in sanatoria. Such instruction is not restricted to Indians of school age and an effort is made to give training to both children of pre-school age and adults.

Wherever possible, education of Indian children in association with non-Indians is encouraged, and the Indian Affairs Branch has entered into agreements with provincial authorities for such joint education. These agreements may include provision for grants for capital expenditures for facilities required by the admission of Indian children.

TEACHERS

In common with other schools throughout Canada, Indian schools are experiencing much difficulty in securing enough qualified teachers. Indian boys and girls are encouraged, through financial assistance, to enter the teaching profession to serve their own people.

Teachers engaged by the Indian Affairs Branch enjoy a uniform salary schedule that compares favourably with those in effect in the provincial schools across Canada. When engaged in the Indian day schools, most teachers receive furnished and heated quarters for which a moderate pay deduction is made. Teachers employed by the Branch participate in all Civil Service welfare benefits, and if they meet the requirements, may, after two years of satisfactory service, be classified as Civil Servants for superannuation purposes.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Welfare services and social benefits to meet the needs of dependent Indian individuals and families are provided by the Indian Affairs Branch, by other departments of government, and by private organizations.

Indians are paid Family Allowances, Old Age Security, Old Age Assistance, Disability and Blind Persons' Allowances, and, in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, Mothers' Allowances are available to needy Indian mothers. A relief program operated by the Branch provides assistance for those who do not qualify for allowances administered by the provinces, but whose circumstances are such that they are unable by their own efforts to maintain themselves and their families.

In matters pertaining to welfare of children, provincial legislation governing apprehension, guardianship, and adoption applies to dependent, delinquent, and neglected Indian children. Authority to take legal action to protect Indian children from neglect and abuse is within the jurisdiction of organizations established for this purpose in non-Indian communities. Branch participation in the child welfare field includes assistance to parents in improving home conditions either directly or by payment for services of a child caring organization, and payment of maintenance costs for foster home and institutional care.

In the field of rehabilitation, programs have been organized and others are being developed whereby handicapped Indians will be helped through training and selective placement towards the fullest utilization of their abilities. Special rehabilitation projects are being organized, particularly for ex-tuberculous young Indian men and women, to assist those wishing to do so, to become established in non-Indian communities in employment that does not overtax their physical abilities.

The number of community projects being undertaken on reserves under the leadership of band councils in co-operation with other organized groups reflects a growing awareness among Indians of community needs and community responsibilities. Trends in this direction are encouraged and supported by the Indian Affairs Branch. Leadership Training Courses are conducted under Branch auspices, and Indians are helped to take part in similar types of programs sponsored by other organizations. A number of organized groups are taking an active interest in the advancement of health, education, and welfare amongst Indians.

Indian Homemakers' Clubs, patterned after the Women's Institute, are established on many reserves. In addition to meeting socially and learning improved methods of homemaking, these groups of women take an active part in community life.

In the field of housing, financial assistance is provided for the construction of new houses and for repairs. This supplements rather than replaces the contributions of the Indians themselves, in the form of labour, materials and money, and the assistance available to them from their Indian Band Funds, Veterans' Land Act Grants and other sources. In recent years, for every dollar contributed by the Indian Affairs administration there has been on average an equal contribution from the Indian householders and the other sources noted above. Since the 1958-59 fiscal year, the amount of assistance provided has been substantially increased.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A great many Indians still depend on the traditional pursuits of trapping, hunting and fishing for a livelihood. New techniques of development and management have increased the production of fur bearing animals in recent years, particularly the introduction of long range programs in co-operation with the various provinces. More recently, programs have been introduced to foster greater participation by Indians in the commercial fishing industry, and to encourage domestic fisheries on a co-operative basis as a means of providing subsistance food. Earnings from the wildlife and fisheries resources are augmented seasonally, by such pursuits as guiding

and the gathering of wild rice and other wild crops.

The traditional arts and crafts are still producing part-time employment for Indians in many areas. Handicraft items include moccasins, gloves, jackets, and mukluks in northern and non-agricultural hunting areas, potato baskets in the Maritimes and totem carvings, carved masks, fire baskets and Cowichan sweaters on the West Coast. These provide an important supplementary income for the Indian families producing them.

Agriculture ranks next to trapping, hunting and fishing in importance, particularly in the Prairie Provinces, Southern Ontario and parts of British Columbia. Indians engaged in agriculture are assisted and encouraged by supervision and practical training and by the provision, where necessary, of breeding stock, seed grain and in some instances, farm machinery; but the tremendous change in techniques since the second World War has left many of them in a relatively unfavourable position and emphasis is now being placed on the introduction of cattle-raising and other mixed farming operations to supplement or replace grain growing in the Prairie Provinces.

Apart from these occupations, the remaining Indians of working age are employed for the most part in forestry, construction, industrial, domestic and professional fields.

Indians residing on reserves do not usually have ready access to sources of credit available to other citizens. To fill the need, the Indian Affairs Branch administers a Revolving Loan Fund, in the amount of $1,000,000, to provide loans for a wide variety of purposes, including all types of agricultural machinery and activity, fishing and forestry equipment, and similar projects which will improve the economic position of the Indian borrower.

The movement of Indians from reserves and their successful integration into non-Indian communities is a matter of increasing concern, and in view of the limited resources and employment opportunities on reserves, and the rapidly increasing Indian population, this trend will inevitably be accelerated as time goes on. To provide for a more orderly movement to urban centres, and to ensure as far as possible that the Indians concerned are equipped to obtain employment and meet the problems of modern-day living, the Individual Placements Program was formally established in 1957. Under this program, the facilities of the National Employment Service are utilized to the greatest possible extent in placing selected Indians in employment. A rural placements program has also been under-

taken which co-operates with other agencies and government departments in assisting or placing Indian individuals or groups in employment, particularly in the Alberta beet fields and in northern and other remote areas where extensive new developments are under way.

GENERAL

The medical care of Indians and Eskimos is within the jurisdiction of the Directorate of Indian and Northern Health Services, Department of National Health and Welfare. Eskimo affairs generally are the direct responsibility of the Northern Administration Branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

Information respecting films and filmstrips about Indians is available from the National Film Board, Ottawa. Information respecting Eskimos is available from the Editorial and Information Division, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Ottawa.

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